

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05
CU-04 ACDA-12 /107 W
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P R 131636Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 208
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 0327

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E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, TU
SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR NEW GOVERNMENT AS SEEN BY RPP SENIOR OFFICIAL

: ANKARA 289 (DTG 121521Z JAN 78)

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1. MUSTAFA USTUNDAG, THE ONE-TIME UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN GRADUATE STUDENT WHO IS SLATED TO BE THE NEW SEC GEN OF ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), MET WITH POL COUNS JANUARY 13 AND DISCUSSED THE PROSPECTIVE STABILITY, COHERENCE AND PRIORITIES OF THE NEW ECEVIT GOVERNMENT.

2. STABILITY:

A. USTUNDAG SAID THE RPP WAS EXPECTING TO GAIN ADDITIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT AFTER THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. ABOUT 17 DEPUTIES IN DEMIREL'S JUSTICE PARTY (JP) ARE EXTREMELY DISSATISFIED WITH DEMIREL'S LEADERSHIP AND INTEND TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO OUST HIM SHORTLY. IF THEY SUCCEED, WHAT IS LEFT OF THE JP MAY JOIN THE GOVERNMENT; IF THEY FAIL, AS SEEMS MORE LIKELY, SOME OR ALL OF THEM ARE EXPECTED TO RESIGN FROM THE JP AND BECOME SUPPORTERS OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT. HE FORECAST THAT RESULTS SHOULD BECOME KNOWN WITHIN 15 OR 20 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

B. ASKED ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THE 10 INDEPENDENTS WHO WERE GIVEN CABINET POSTS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, USTUNDAG SAID THAT IF THEY WITHDREW FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THEY WOULD HAVE NO WHERE ELSE TO GO. WHILE THEY CONCEIVABLY COULD RETURN TO THE JP IF DEMIREL WERE REMOVED AS LEADER, THE JP WITHOUT DEMIREL PROBABLY WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.

C. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A REBELLION FROM THE RPP'S OWN LEFT WING, USTUNDAG POINTED OUT THAT ECEVIT'S REMOVAL OF MOST OF THE INCUMBENTS FROM SENIOR PARTY JOBS COINCIDENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S FORMATION (REFTTEL) HAD SATISFIED THE PARTY'S LEFT WING. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SERIOUS DISCONTENT WITHIN THE PARTY, HE SAID. FURTHERMORE, HE POINTED OUT, THE RPP LEFT WING, LIKE THE INDEPENDENTS, HAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. RPP LEFTISTS WOULD NOT CONSIDER JOINING WITH PARTIES
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OF THE FAR RIGHT TO TRY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT, HE FELT SURE.

D. AS FOR THE PENDING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 17 OR 18, USTUNDAG FORECAST THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GAIN NOT LESS THAN A CLEAR MAJORITY OF 226 SEATS.

3. COHERENCE: ALTHOUGH THE RPP'S OUTLOOK ON MANY ISSUES VARIED WIDELY FROM THE VIEWS OF THE SMALLER COALITION PARTNERS, ECEVIT SEES EYE-TO-EYE ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS WITH DEP PRIMIN FEYZIOGLU, THE LEADER OF THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR), AND MINSTATE SUKAN, THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP). ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, THEREFORE, USTUNDAG PREDICTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNUSUALLY COHERENT. HE SAID WE SHOULD EXPECT EVEN MOREFORCEFUL FOREIGN POLICY STEPS AFTER THE CONFIDENCE VOTE.

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4. PROGRAM EMPHASES:

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE STRONVEST SINGLE AREA OF
EMPHASIS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM USTUNDAG DECLARED, IS WITHOUT
QUESTION THE EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH DOMESTIC PEACE AND THE RULE OF
LAW. THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH ESSENTIALLY IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
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MUST BE PROTECTED FROM VIOLENT EXTREMISTS WHO WANT TO RESTRICT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF LEARNING, AND THAT DEMOCRACY MUST BE PERMITTED TO FUNCTION BY SAFE GUARDING ITS EXERCISE. THE EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CONDUCTED ON MANY FRONTS, BUT WOULD CENTER ON ENDING THE EXTREMIST GROUPS' CONTROL OF STUDENT DORMITORIES AND OTHER UNIVERSITY-RELATED FACILITIES.

B. FOREIGN POLICY: ALMOST EQUAL PRIORITY WILL BE ASSIGNED FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS. KEY IMPORTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH CARAMANLIS AND WORKING OUT A RESOLUTION OF TURKISH-GREEK PROBLEMS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HOPE FOR A LIFTING OF THE US EMBARGO. USTUNDAG SAID THAT THEY REALIZE THAT THERE IS NO U.S. "ECONOMIC EMBARGO"; HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO HAS A SYMBOLIC EFFECT WHICH CARRIES OVER INTO OTHER FIELDS.

C. ECONOMY: IF GREECE WILL COOPERATE WITH ECEVIT'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT RAPID RESOLUTION OF THE TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTES, AND IF THE U.S. LIFTS THE ARMS EMBARGO SOON, USTUNDAG FORCAST THAT THE POLITICAL FOUNDATION FOR RESOLVING TURKEY'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY RE-ENFORCED. THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE SEES A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN SUCCESS IN SOLVING FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS AND SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

5. USTUNDAG MENTIONED HIS REGARD FOR U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS AND POL COUNS URGED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAKE THE MOST OF THE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THEIR EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
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